Wright to share experiences in Middle East flashpoints

MIKE KASARDIA Staff Writer

On Oct. 17, 1973, Robin Wright landed in Cairo. That day, Jews all over the world were celebrating Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism. At the same time, a conflict was being directed by Egypt against Israel. The Arab-Israeli confrontation, a surprise attack on Israeli-occupied territories, initiating the Yom Kippur War, was also Wright's first taste of conflict in the Middle East.

“I remember someone telling me that the Egyptians had crossed the Suez Canal,” Wright said. “I was 24.”

Since then, Wright has covered revolutions, wars and uprisings in more than 60 countries. Although she has witnessed governmental transformations around the world, she said, “We’re getting stuck back into the Middle East.”

Wright will share her familiarity with the region at 3:30 p.m. today in Amphitheater C, directing the audience’s focus on the quickly changing nature of political uprisings and the developing maker of the Middle East, to wrap up Week Eight’s theme of “Chautauqua’s Global Public Square.”

“When it comes to uprisings, we are witnessing the greatest period of political change in human history,” Wright said. “I want to look into the 21st century to examine what wars, revolutions and uprisings are going to look like.”

Wright has written for publications such as The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post. She has been a fellow at the Institute of Peace and the Smithsonian’s Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, among other institutions.

Her experiences with the Islamic world are detailed over eight books, which includes her most notable book, “The History of the World According to Islam,” which has been a staple name in record collections across the globe since the late 1960s. Her most recent work, “Fighting for a Plant-Free Lake,” tackles the impact of invasive species.

“[Wright] is the most amazing person to talk to,” said John Esposito — it’s here to stay. “She believes peoples and their cultures can and will change.”

Wright’s firsthand involvement in various flashpoints and turbulent territories is supported by her background in history. She said people and their cultures cannot be adequately understood without personal interaction and an appreciation for their pasts.

“Religion provides context to understand what’s happening,” Wright said. “You need the history to know a region, to know a people. It’s key to understanding every part of the world. You can’t go off in two weeks and stay a part of the understanding.”

This in-depth understanding is something Wright said many Americans lack. She said that, as a nation, Americans are comfortable remaining detached from many of the world’s conflicts. As a result, Americans have become somewhat “self-indulgent” and view issues of international relations “from our own prism.”

“We have the luxury of not needing to care about other parts of the world, but they need us to know about us,” Wright said. “Unfortunately, not every nation has the luxury of staying Chautauqua, where people care and talk about important things.”

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ENVIROMENT

Fighting for a plant-free lake

Tiny insects make huge difference in staving off invasive vegetation species Page 3

HISTORY

Place and memory

Architectural historian to give Heritage Lecture in Amphitheater Page 3

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A warm reunion

Children’s School librarian returns to Delta Page 6

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Wright’s firsthand involvement in various flashpoints and turbulent territories is supported by her background in history. She said people and their cultures cannot be adequately understood without personal interaction and an appreciation for their pasts. "Religion provides context to understand what's happening," Wright said. "You need the history to know a region, to know a people. It's key to understanding every part of the world. You can't go off in two weeks and stay a part of the understanding." This in-depth understanding is something Wright said many Americans lack. She said that, as a nation, Americans are comfortable remaining detached from many of the world's conflicts. As a result, Americans have become somewhat "self-indulgent" and view issues of international relations "from our own prism." "We have the luxury of not needing to care about other parts of the world, but they need us to know about us," Wright said. "Unfortunately, not every nation has the luxury of staying Chautauqua, where people care and talk about important things." See WRIGHT, Page 4

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The Fighting for a Plant-Free Lake

At top, caddisflies feed on Eurasian watermilfoil. Above, is a sample of healthy Eurasian watermilfoil (left), and a plant eaten clean by a caddisfly is pictured. 

Staff Writer

After his retirement from Cornell, Johnson created the consulting firm Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecosystems to continue his contracted work with the CLA and the Chautauqua County Department of Economic Planning and Development, which has provided him with some of his funding over the past 12 years.

Johnson said his firm also produces yearly data reports that he gives to the CLA and Department of Economic Planning, and that those reports are available to the general public as well.

"There will always be plants in the lake. That's not going to change," Johnson said. "But rooted plant growth does affect recreation and that's a big problem for Chautauqua tourism, which is why we have to try and manage it."
At the Amp in 1959. And he seleccion of the Kingston Trio they reveal about past events and how they are framed re past; it is the stories people said that history is not the Wisconsin history professor who his memories and experience of people and Chautauqua as a qua, its programming, its complexity of Chautauqua looks the same as it tent. But change comes hard to Chautauqua, and with change, it gets boring," he said.

"When somebody reveals something to you that's personal and intimate, maybe I didn't think responsible adults could be writers." - Brian Castner

"I had always wanted to be a writer when I was a kid," Castner said. "And then there was something about going into the military and becoming an adult and a husband and a parent that — I didn't think writing was going to suit them. And I think responsible adults could be writers. I thought responsible adults get jobby-jobs and pay mortgages."

That changed for Castner when he decided to pursue writing. He wrote his mem- oir, The Long Walk, and then began working for different journalism outlets. He said his time working as a journalist and trying to get inside people's heads and discover how they think influences his choice of topic for his Brown Bag.

"When somebody reveals something to you that's personal and intimate, maybe even without realizing they're doing it, you still have your journalist's hat on," he said. "You realize, as a writer, what they just gave you, what great stuff you just got. And the only way to write a great story and convey that to the reader is betraying the trust in some way. Source is maybe not media savvy, and they reveal something that's great. And your readers will know it, but like Did- go, you're yelling something else out." Castner said that feeling of selling someone out is one that he has come across in the stories he has written over the years, which is something he plans to talk about.

"I wrote a piece for Wired magazine about the World bomb squad and what happened immedi- ately after the marathon bombing," Castner said. "I spent days with these guys, and collected 10 hours and hours of tape. And the things that they say later, they might not have said in the beginning — and that's because I think that's the best material."

Castner hopes that people will come away from his lec- ture with "an understanding of what's going on in the writer's head" with those kinds of sensitive topics and stories. He said that there is great writing being done in the various branches of non-fiction, and he wants to share the care and decision-mak- ing that goes into that kind of writing.

"I'm going to talk about building that trust," Castner said. "And then you know, you have that perfect moment, everyone wants to share that. But I also want to be honest about some of the conflicting ethics — it's more complicated and nuanced." Castner thinks this is what Didion was addressing with her famous quote. "Like you wish it was otherwise, but this is how it is own."
It is one that, Wright said, cause we can’t win things for a while, and it’s not be-time in the Middle East among other nations, needs She said the United States, demands and the overall communication, war, civil ing to new technologies in the nature of conflict. Progression has altered city-states to nation-states tracing the development of world will be affected by ing, though. Wright said from page 1. 

It is a kind of movement that has taken place, and it takes place for different reasons in different areas of the world,” she said. Overall, “what we see is a kind of cycle in modern times in terms of interest in religion. Religion does ad-vance in our era, I believe, in human questions.”

According to her website, Humperdinck began top- ping the charts with “Release Me” in 1976, followed by the Beatles’ “Penny Lane” from 1967 and 63 gold records, and 11 number one singles. He is also known for his good imitation of Jerry Lewis. That night, he gave such a good imitation of Jerry Lewis that has taken place, and it takes place for different reasons in different areas of the world,” he said. Overall, “what we see is a kind of cycle in modern times in terms of interest in religion. Religion does ad-vance in our era, I believe, in human questions.”

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Deborah Bräutigam, Johns Hopkins professor, discusses the relationship between China and Africa, its diplomacy, economics and relations during her morning lecture Thursday in the Amphitheater.

Bräutigam advises a Chinese-based approach to Africa

By Allison Levitsky

Friday, August 15, 2014

Allison Levitsky is the Chautauqua Daily Staff Writer.

This historical context, Bräutigam said, is key to understanding China’s relationship with Africa today. China is applying its own experience of development through foreign investment to Africa. Bräutigam contrasted this with the U.S., which gives money to Africa on very different terms.

We have tended to deal with Africa as a place of war and paths, child soldiers — diseases — a place that needs our help and our pity, rather than a place for investment," Bräutigam said. "And, I think that our aid has been focused on that. Our aid has been systematically detached from investment. We don’t want our aid necessarily to go into manufacturing so it could compete with us.

In addition to its interest in Africa as a source of business, China’s dealings with Africa are also diplomatically strategic. Bräutigam said in bordering 50 African countries, China has garnered their support — their votes — in organizations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. For the same reason, China has been politically engaged in the Caribbean and the South Pacific, where little have to offer China in the form of natural resources, but much to offer in the form of votes. Chinese economic activity in Africa poses some environmental, social and political challenges. Bräutigam said.

For one, Chinese companies export processed timber from Africa, often illegally, with the “convenience” of local companies in countries such as Gabon and Mozambique. As more of the Chinese population has entered the middle class, ivory has become a status symbol, Bräutigam added, resulting in a sharp rise in African ivory consumption.

Additionally, Chinese companies manufacture small arms, which help to fuel small-scale conflicts in Africa. China’s rise in political clout is a result of U.S. link to de-industrialization in countries such as Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Africa is concerned about Chinese goods flooding their markets, contributing to de-industrialization in some societies, Bräutigam said. At the same time, Chinese manufacturing is moving to Africa, equipped by the move of leather companies to cultivating its middle class, which has more cars, stable and quiet than any other country in Africa. Leather production is now to Ethiopia, Bräutigam said.

Italians started the Ethiopian leather industry when it helped occupied Ethiopia in the late 1930s. But China is increasingly outsourcing its leather manufacturing as Chinese labor costs rise 17 percent per year.

“We think of China as a cheap labor place,” Bräutigam said. “That’s no longer going to be the case.”

While one might expect China to want to avoid outsourcing jobs, Bräutigam said, that’s not entirely the case.

“In part, the Chinese government wants this to happen,” she said. “They’re playing a delicate balance between keeping their China up the value scale so they will go into low-labor-intensive activities and more capital-intensive activities. Where that’s the profits are, and they see that.

In that sense, Bräutigam said, China is looking to other world powers as models.

“That’s what we’ve done,” she said. “That’s what Europe has done. That’s what they’re doing as well.”

In closing her lecture, Bräutigam contrasted the U.S. view of how a poor nation must develop, with China’s view.

“We believe that countries need aid and good governance to develop,” she said, noting that the U.S. sees its aid to Africa as altruistic, despite that it is, in many ways, self-interested.

China, in contrast, sees a need for investment and infrastructure, and sees aid as a diplomatic maneuver. In the Chinese view, governments improve as the result of their economies developing.

The two approaches are different. But after the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit held in Washington, D.C., last week, Bräutigam saw a shift toward new — perhaps more Chinese — approaches to Africa among U.S. leaders.

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Bräutigam advises a Chinese-based approach to Africa
Morning Worship
COLUMNS BY MARY LEE TALBOT

The book, she said, would make sure to or- der it.

After accident, Children's School librarian returns to job she loves

Mark Oprea

It's a Wednesday, and li- brarian Lynn Moschel is real- ly the image of a Chil- dren's School. She holds up a book called Kids at the Library, circling around the title, and then its pictures, all matching her cheer.

It's something else the librarian does best.

These days, Lynn visits the Children's School only once a week. A few years ago, she was the school's full-time librarian, in charge of over 50 "Get Well Soon" cards that spanned three floors with a "Children's School Song" displayed on the second-floor stairs with a "Children's School Song" displayed on the second-floor stairs.

She spearheads programming for the school, through best-selling books in bookstores, re- fiction with the students, and through book selections with the weekly newsletter.

Lynn Moschel, pictured with her husband Rich, is the director of Children's School and a long-time friend of Lynn, who knows when to smile and when to frown. Her men- tioned in the first movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy," which she said she owes to her fellow Chautauquans.

At age 8, Rich made Lynn Moschel's home. She was the first one to notice the signs of a "Children's School Song" by Rosephanye Powell. Patti Piper provided the lead vocals.

She is still such an amaz- ing woman, Lynn said. And Lynn has an exten- sive book collection, which she said she owes to her fellow Chautauquans.

But last year, Lynn's pres- ence at the Children's School had been spending full summer at Chautauqua, Lynn was president of the Alberta Archi- meri Public Library in Burlington, New York, managing children's programming. After the event, she was Rich, made a family of three times - surprised by her life, she Begins to enliven and entertain the world in the story of Col. Eugene de Kock, the former chief of the "anti-terrorism" unit of the South Afri- can police.

As an illustration, he told the story of Col. Eugene de Kock, the former chief of the "anti-terrorism" unit of the South Afri- can police. "I Rise," by Rosephanye Powell. Patti Piper provided the lead vocals.

There is a question of whether these relationships could be used at the Wellness Center, Lynn said. "And Lynn has an exten- sive book collection, which she said she owes to her fellow Chautauquans.

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Last year, Lynn's presence returned to the Children's School.

On Jan. 14, Rich came to the Children's School, Lynn was president of the Alberta Archi- meri Public Library in Burlington, New York, managing children's programming. After the event, he said, Rich made Lynn Moschel's home. She was the first one to notice the signs of a "Children's School Song" by Rosephanye Powell. Patti Piper provided the lead vocals.

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NEGI SHARES THE DALAI LAMA’S DREAM OF SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION

KELSEY HUSNICK

“Failing to see the needs of others is a skill that can be sharpened. If we train deliberately, we can cultivate it.”

Negi reminded Chautauquans that being attuned to others’ needs is a skill that can be sharpened. “Compassion is a skill,” he said. “If we train deliberately, we can cultivate it.”

The compassion training helped students deal with everyday stress better. Negi said students had less inflammation, caused by a stress hormone IL-6, and their cortisol levels decreased more quickly than in students who didn’t go through the training. These developments can help decrease stress-induced injuries and depression, Negi said.

“Compassion is a skill,” he said. “If we train deliberately, we can cultivate it.”

Emory University, Negi helped create a program for “compassion training,” which was implemented among the freshman class in response to a growing depression and suicide rate on the campus. The compassion training helped students deal with everyday stress better. Negi said students had less inflammation, caused by a stress hormone IL-6, and their cortisol levels decreased more quickly than in students who didn’t go through the training. These developments can help decrease stress-induced injuries and depression, Negi said.

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Kelsey Husnick

Staff Writer

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The Wenfield Crawford Dibert Foundation in Jamestown, founded in 1959 by the late Robert Ostrom, has over the years provided financial support to the activities of Chautauqua. In the past, the foundation has funded the Interfaith Community, the Interfaith Board of Directors, the Dibert Foundation, and the Dibert Foundation supports music camps.

Robert Ostrom, president of the Dibert Foundation, said support of the music camps is a highlight each year that he and his family enjoy. “Some of the students we met while at Chautauqua were local, but some were from Sweden, Canada, Germany,” he said. “The camaraderie wherever possible to provide a Chautauqua readily available to tap into the experience.”

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CTC’s Late Night Cabaret showcases actors’ talents

EMMA FOXERING
Staff Writer

They sing, they dance, and Chautauquans already know they act. Tonight’s Late Night Cabaret will open the stage to Chautauqua Theater Company’s (CTC) band of triple threats. The last show of CTC’s season starts at 10:30 p.m. in Bratton Theater. The production, directed by CTC directing fellow Heidi Handelsman, includes solo and ensemble work from all members of the company’s conservatory. Sound fellow Elliot Davoren and lighting fellow Known Nau also contribute to the final product.

“We really want to give them space to do what they want, to show us whatever it is they want to show us,” said CTC Managing Director Sarah Clare Corporandy. “We get to see all of these gems and really intimate parts of who they are, but it’s also a really nice way to close the season because it’s so heartful and personal.”

Part of CTC’s packed last week of programming, the late-night production must be built around the existing set in Bratton and rehearsed around CTC’s production schedule. By the time the show goes up, actors will have rehearsed as a whole for only about five days.

“Everything gets built at the 11th hour,” Handelsman said. “We’re going to build it lickety-split and it’s going to be spectacular.”

Through Handelsman’s organizing and directing the project, she said it is actor-driven, offering the conservatory a forum to showcase anything they choose.

“They’re picking their own material and they’re getting inspired by each other and they’re getting inspired by the work we’ve been doing here,” Handelsman said. “It’s coming from them — I’m not putting anything on them at all.”

The team has held brainstorming meetings throughout the season, but Handelsman has worked through the final days to mesh pieces into a finished product by tonight’s show.

“We’ve all been spitballing, and I’ve been the person who’s in charge of bringing all of these disparate elements together,” Handelsman said. “It’s making shapes out of clouds, molding them into solid things, because the possibilities are so vast.”

According to Handelsman, the night will be “full of surprises,” but she also said the through line of the many skits, spoofs and musical numbers in the production will be the company’s talent.

“There’s going to be a lot of singing, a lot of dance and some good comedy — some good spoofing hopefully — and these guys are going to show up and we’re going to bring a lot of joy,” Handelsman said.

CTC leaders said in past seasons the cabaret has been one of the company’s most attended programs. Entrance is free and first-come, but season ticket holders are given tickets in advance to guarantee sitting.

“It’s usually our most crowded event,” said CTC Artistic Director Vivienne Benesch. “[Audience members] have developed a relationship with these actors so not only is it to support them, but also to be surprised by the continued depth of their talent.”